



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN SEES DANGER TO PUBLIC IN NEW ALIEN HEALTH POLICY

At the conclusion of an emergency hearing of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, committee chairman, Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), declared that "public health will be endangered by the new County policy on treatment of illegal aliens."

The new policy to which Waxman referred denies County non-emergency health services to illegal aliens.

Pointing to testimony by Dr. Shirley Fannin, Chief, Acute Communicable Diseases Control for the county health department, Waxman predicted that the new policy would lead to an increase in contagious diseases among the population as a whole. He said,

"Dr. Fannin presented us with incontrovertible evidence of the sharp rise in cases of tuberculosis, typhoid, and leprosy in recent years. A substantial portion of this increase can be traced directly to illegal aliens. It is a matter of simple common sense that we cannot live, work and go to school with people afflicted by contagious ailments without running a high risk of catching these diseases."

Waxman angrily dismissed the claim made by the three county supervisors who promoted the new rule that it will save the county fifteen million dollars.

"Not only will this plan fail to save money, it will actually cause county health costs to increase. By denying illegal aliens routine health care, we will be forcing them to delay treatment until their sickness reaches an acute stage and can be classified as an 'emergency'. We are driving people whose health problems could be treated with inexpensive treatment, to a point at which they will be admitted for emergency surgery or costly care in an intensive care unit."